

from wealthy families. They're mostly someplace in between. They get some credit, some money to pay for their college education by devoting a year or two of their lives to helping other people meet the challenges of their lives, meeting our common responsibilities. That's what WEAVE does. That's what Sacramento is doing. And if America does it, nothing can keep our best days from lying in the future.

Thank you, and God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. outside the Women Escaping A Violent Environment (WEAVE) Counseling Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gail Jones, WEAVE executive director; Mayor Joseph Serna, Jr., and Chief of Police Arturo Venegas of Sacramento; and Art Torres, California Democratic Party chair.

## Remarks to the McClellan Air Force Base Local Redevelopment Authority and an Exchange With Reporters in Sacramento

July 23, 1996

*The President.* Thank you. Please sit down, everybody. Well, thank you. I know you've been meeting, and I don't want to take a lot of time because I want to spend most of my time just listening to you. But I've had a chance to talk to Congressman Fazio and Congressman Matsui, and Leon and I were visiting with them earlier. I know that this last year has not been easy for you and I have—frankly, it has not been easy for me to try to help you because Congress has fiercely opposed my efforts to try to privatize more of the maintenance operations more easily, as I'm sure you all know.

But we are still committed to making this work, and I am convinced we can make it work. I believe that the potential of this base is very great. I feel as strongly about that as I did when we decided to undertake this course, and we will do everything we can under the law to help you. My main purpose in being here today is to find out if there are things that you think we can do that we haven't done, and we're anxious to get after it and do more.

I know that you know all this, but I think that it's worth recounting that we have taken some steps in the last few weeks that I believe will help: say that the DOD will maintain the microelectronic center, keeping the commissary and the base exchange open, providing about \$4½ million to retrain 1,500 civilian workers, providing some more money for the casting emission reduction program, which I'm very interested in because of the idea of developing environmentally friendly ways of providing for casting metal parts I think is a very important thing. It has enormous potential for a significant

sector of our economy. And of course, I know that you know that the Department of Energy is going to provide \$800,000 for your nuclear reactor facility for research on treatment for inoperable brain tumors, which is something that's acquired a lot more interest in the last couple of years because there seemed to be so many of them.

And there are other things that we can do, I'm sure. I'm committed to doing them. I just wanted to come here and kind of get an update from you, tell you that I understand some of your frustrations, particularly on putting up more business for this privatization in place. We have worked very hard for it, and we have been, frankly, frustrated that people who say they believe we ought to privatize everything don't seem to be interested in helping us on this. But I'm not discouraged, and I'm prepared to go on and do everything I can. And as I said, I mostly just want to hear from you and get whatever ideas you have. And I thank you for giving me the chance to be here.

### TWA Flight 800

Q. Mr. President, can we ask you for just a second to give us an update on TWA 800?

*The President.* Yes. I got a report already, one report from James Lee Witt whom I asked to go up there and try to kind of coordinate things and make sure that we were doing everything we could be doing for the families as well as make sure that all of our group was working together with the State and local people.

I think it's important to say that I believe progress is being made in the investigation, progress is being made in identification and recovery. But again I would say—I read the news reports this morning, and the important thing I want to emphasize at this moment is that we must not draw a conclusion until we're sure that the conclusion is supported by the facts. And I cannot say that I've learned anything today which enables me to give you a definite conclusion about the cause of the accident.

But right now I'm very concerned about just getting all the evidence we can collect and dealing with these families and making sure that they're treated in the most humane way and that they get their answers as quickly as possible. So those are our priorities. We're working on them. I do not have a definite answer at this moment.

Q. Mr. President, there seems to be some confusion about whether or not chemical residue of some kind was found on remains or on debris removed from the aircraft. Can you clear up that confusion, sir?

*The President.* Well, I think the confusion would be what the evidence supports. There is some—traces of some chemicals have been identified, but in the way that they were identified, though, I believe—the stories that I read implied, I think, more than the evidence supported at the moment. And I'm not criticizing anybody because we're all desperate to find an answer to this.

But based on the reports that I have read, and I'm getting regular reports on this both orally and in writing, I cannot tell you that the evidence establishes a cause of the accident. So finding various traces of things may indicate that something happened, and it may not. But right now, the people we have looking at this have not drawn a firm conclusion that's been relayed to any of us.

Q. How long do you think it will take to make an analysis of it?

*The President.* Well, I don't know, but they're working very hard on it. I mean, believe me, we don't have another priority. So as quick as we can find something out, you'll know it.

#### Welfare Reform

Q. [Inaudible]—Senate on welfare—[inaudible].

*The President.* What did you say?

Q. [Inaudible]—Senate on welfare—[inaudible].

*The President.* Well, I think they adopted two good amendments today. But I think the question that you ought to ask yourself in evaluating that bill, including the amendments that were adopted, which I favor, is does this weaken the protections we give to children in our country? That's the major issue to me.

A lot of the savings in the welfare bill actually have nothing whatever to do with welfare. They're just part of the budgetary calculus of the overall balanced budget plan. They're necessary to finance the tax cuts and the other things in their plan. And so I just don't want to do anything that hurts kids.

They adopted two good amendments. I applaud them for doing it. The bill's going to go to conference. I'm going to keep working with them, and we'll see if we can all agree on something that is acceptable. The actual provisions of the bill that apply to welfare per se are much better and basically pretty good, including putting several billion dollars more for child care.

The savings in the bill that I don't agree with, except for the voucher—the absence of giving the States the option to provide some assistance for people who run out of their time limits are for their children. That's the only welfare issue that I'm aware of that's still hanging out there. The rest of the issues basically relate to budget cuts that will affect poor working people, as much as anything else, and their children.

A lot of these food stamp cuts will affect poor working mothers, minimum-wage mothers and their children. Or the cuts to legal immigrants are likely to affect people who come to this country and may be middle class, may be even upper middle class, but then through no fault of their own, after paying taxes here for years, something happens to them that affects their children, they get in a car wreck, they get cancer, they get mugged. These are things that happen to people who live anywhere in the world, and they can happen to people here.

So I'm concerned about the impact of some of the provisions of this on children. But I still believe—since it's getting better, I'm optimistic we can make it even better in the conference, and I'll just keep working at it and try to get it done.

*July 23 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1996*

NOTE: The President spoke at 3 p.m. in the Commanders' Air Room at McClellan Air Force Base.

In his remarks, he referred to Chief of Staff Leon E. Panetta.

## Statement on the Death of Hamilton Fish, Jr.

*July 23, 1996*

Hillary and I wish to express our sympathy over the death of former U.S. Representative Hamilton Fish, Jr.

In the tradition of his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Ham chose a life of public service in the Congress, where he tirelessly championed social causes and civil rights even when it was not the popular thing to do. His support of the Fair Housing Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, and Civil Rights Act reflects

his determined concern for equality and righteousness for all. I had asked Ham to serve on the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation, but unfortunately his health kept him from accepting that nomination. Ham will be remembered for his efforts on behalf all Americans and especially for his service to the people of New York's 19th District. Our prayers are with his family and friends in this time.

## Remarks at a Democratic Dinner in San Francisco, California

*July 23, 1996*

Thank you. Thank you very much. Well, the mayor can lay it on, can't he? *[Laughter]* When Willie Brown was elected mayor of San Francisco, Hillary and I were sitting at home waiting for the returns to come in. She said, "Well, exactly what do you think it means?" And I said, "Well, if there were any doubt, San Francisco will never be bored again." *[Laughter]*

You know, the mayor talked about how I had to go around the country and meet with all different kinds of groups. I remember once going into the back room where the members of the Democratic caucus and the California general assembly would meet with the speaker, and a lot of its members didn't even interrupt their card games to say hello. *[Laughter]* But most of them couldn't have found Arkansas on a map probably, anyway.

But Willie humored me along. He thought I might amount to something some day. *[Laughter]* And I remember after I talked to Willie Brown about politics I felt the way the late, great actor Richard Burton felt. You know, he—in the early sixties, some of you may remember a movie called "A Man for All Seasons" which won the Academy Award. You remember that, where Paul Scofield played Sir Thomas More

in one of the great performances ever in the history of film. Richard Burton said, "When I saw Paul Scofield I knew I'd never be that good, so I decided to go for the money." *[Laughter]* And when I met Willie Brown I knew I'd never be that good, so I decided I might as well run for President and get out of politics.

I want to thank Shirley Nelson and Brooke and Sean Byers and George Chu and Jim Hormel and all the people at the head table and all the rest of you that helped to make this dinner a success tonight. I'd like to thank my friend Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis for being here tonight, the council members, the supervisors that are here. Senator Bill Lockyer is here, the leader of the Democrats in the California State Senate.

I'd like to introduce a friend of mine who's come a long way, who is right now supervising the celebrations for my 50th birthday—something I'd just as soon ignore, but this being an election year, I don't suppose I can—the former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and former Governor of the State of Mississippi, my long-time friend and colleague Ray Mabus from Mississippi, who is somewhere. I thank him for being here.